

CHICAGO  
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6 Policemen  
Found To Be  
Members Of  
Ku Klux Klan

By Art Petacque

Six Chicago policemen have been found to be members of the Ku Klux Klan, it was disclosed Thursday. A six-foot cross—often used as a fiery symbol of klan terrorism—was found in the home of one of the six.

Police Supt. James B. Conlisk Jr. announced that action is being taken to dismiss the six from the force. Earlier, The Sun-Times exclusively disclosed their affiliation with the racist organization.

Conlisk said a months-long investigation by the police department of klan activities in Chicago pinpointed the klan connections of the police.

Klan spokesman in Georgia says "at least 50" Chicago policemen belong to organization. Page 18.

Patrolman Donald Heath of the predominantly-Negro Fillmore District was termed by Conlisk to be a leader in Chicago klan activities.

Conlisk said Heath, 30, of 2055 N. Laurole, recruited

the other five policemen into the hate group.

Two others named as klan members were Fillmore District Patrolman Richard Stanton, 33, of 3530 W. 62d Pl., and Austin District Patrolman Dennis Aloja, 25, of 4040 W. Concord.

The others were not identified immediately, pending completion of questioning of them at police headquarters.

Conlisk said Stanton resigned from the force rather than submit to questioning on his klan activities.

Police Internal Inspections Division Director Raymond Clark said that Aloja, who

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Donald Heath (left) was identified as ringleader of klanmen apartment by Supt. Conlisk at a press conference. (Sun-Times Photo)

Jail Experts  
Hit Johnson  
And Woods

Story On Page 3

Continued from Page 1

joined the force three years ago, also resigned.

The six-foot cross — of a plastic material that made it reusable for repeated burnings—was found in Heath's home, according to Conlisk.

The klan long has burned crosses to terrorize Negroes.

Also found in Heath's home were a number of semi-automatic weapons, copies of hate literature and klan pamphlets, according to Deputy Police Supt. John Mulchrone.

The confiscated material, displayed in the 12th-floor office of the I.D., included an estimated 200,000 rounds of ammunition, including some of the armor-piercing variety; seven live hand grenades, which were later disarmed; a .45-caliber "grease gun" and several other rifles and pistols, and a gas mask.

Clark said the policemen had been measured for klan robes but had not yet received them.

"I am shocked that members of the Chicago Police Department belong to a hate group," said Conlisk in announcing the findings of the department's investigators.

Conlisk noted that klan membership does not violate a state law. But, he added, it is "contrary to the rules and regulations of the Chicago Police Department."

Conlisk said the four men who had not resigned would be taken before the Police Board for dismissal action.

He said the investigation is continuing to determine if other policemen belong to the klan.

Clark said that thus far the investigation indicated klan membership was "not widespread."

It was learned that the state's attorney's office entered the investigation of the police klan activities after being informed that possible criminal activities were involved.

Negroes, Roman Catholics and Jews have been the main targets of klan violence through the years.

The House Committee on Un-American Activities, sum-

marizing two years of hearings on klan activities, said earlier this month that the organization remains "a vehicle of death, destruction and fear" in the nation.

HUAC estimated the klan's national membership at 17,000 in 18 states.

However, the Anti-Defama-

ly concerned about the image of white Chicago policemen in the eyes of the city's Negro population.

In an exclusive Sun-Times interview on Dec. 10, Conlisk told of his hopes of recruiting men "who will be more sensitive to the social problems in law enforcement."

He cited a stepped-up police human relations training program as part of an effort to maintain racial peace in Chicago.

In the same interview, Conlisk vowed a new accent on "aggressive investigation" to ferret out police wrongdoing.

The unmasking of the six policemen's klan activities was an apparent outgrowth of that program.

It appeared also that a new and closer relationship with the Federal Bureau of Investigation under Conlisk's regime figured in the klan case.

Because of the klan's history of violence, the FBI maintains surveillance over activities of its white-hooded members.

Joseph J. Le Feavour, president of the Fraternal Order of Police, Chicago Lodge No. 7, said he found it "hard to believe that any Chicago police officers could be so stupid and irrational as to belong to the Ku Klux Klan."

Le Feavour said the "ideals of professional law enforcement officers are diametrically opposed" to the "totally un-American conduct" that characterizes the klan.

"Officers of this type," Le Feavour added, "are certainly not representative of the Chicago Police Department."

## Policemen Fired For Klan Links

CHICAGO, April 5 (AP) — The civilian police board today dismissed three city policemen from the force for their connection with the Ku Klux Klan.

Former policeman Donald Heath, admitted Grand Dragon of the Chicago chapter of the Klan, and two other former policemen, William Plogger, 43, and Ernest Semel, 33, were permanently dismissed from the force on grounds of conduct bringing discredit to the force, failure to obey orders, and general inefficiency and incompetency.

APR 6 - 1958

## Policeman Accused of Plot on Daley

CHICAGO, Feb. 29 (AP)—A policeman testified today that a fellow officer, head of the Ku Klux Klan in Illinois, discussed ways of assassinating Mayor Richard J. Daley of Chicago and high police officials.

Policeman James Tobin testified at a police board hearing into whether Policeman Donald Heath, now under suspension, should be fired. Heath denied Tobin's allegations.

Tobin said Heath told him a speeding car could fire a bazooka rocket into the living room of the Daley home, where the Mayor likes to relax in a lounge chair near a front bay window.

Heath bragged that he knew the Mayor's bodyguards, Tobin said, and that would make the assassination easier.

Heath also discussed killing Deputy Police Supt. James M. Rochford, because he "didn't like the way Rochford handled riots and Capt. James Holzman "because he is Jewish," Tobin said.

The talk went no further, Tobin said, because Heath received orders from national Klan leaders to avoid violence in Chicago because of presidential aspirations of former Gov. George Wallace of Alabama.

## Chicago's Racialists Warned

CHICAGO, Dec. 29 (AP)—Mayor Richard Daley said today he was shocked at information that six Chicago policemen are members of the Ku Klux Klan. He vowed to rid the city government of any employees found to be involved with hate groups.

Meanwhile, the Police Department's internal investigation division and the Cook County (Chicago) state's attorney's office continued investigation of Klan efforts to recruit Chicago policemen.

Patrolman Donald Heath, 30, on the force six years, named by Police Superintendent James Conlisk as ring-leader of the recruitment drive, was relieved of duty yesterday after a raid on his home uncovered a cache of weapons, ammunition and Klan literature.

Two others named as Klan members, Patrolmen Richard Stanton, 33, and Dennis Alsia, 25, resigned rather than face questioning about Klan activities, Conlisk said. A third, Jop Johansson, 26, resigned while being questioned.

Heath, Johansson and Stanton were assigned to the Fillmore district, a predominantly Negro area on the city's West Side. Alsia was assigned to the Austin district, which also has a large Negro population.



# Reveal Two More Klansmen In Blue

By James Casey

Police Supt. James B. Conlisk Jr. Tuesday made public the withheld names of two policemen in a Ku Klux Klan scandal—and also disclosed a new ground for possible prosecution.

The latest to be accused by Conlisk as members of the racist secret society are Policemen William H. Plogger, 44, and Ernest R. Semet, 32, both of the Shakespeare District.

They and four previously identified patrolmen may be charged with violating the law enforcement officers' code of ethics, signed by all policemen, the superintendent said.

The code requires that they "respect the rights of all people."

"The KKK does not respect the rights of people," Conlisk said. "That is my opinion and, therefore, the opinion of the police department."

Plogger, Semet and James Heath, 35, admitted ringleader of the police Klan cell, are scheduled to face a hearing, probably this week, before the



WILLIAM H. PLOGGER

ERNEST R. SEMET

Police Disciplinary Board.

The other three — Richard Stanton and John Johansson, assigned to the Fillmore District with Heath, and Dennis Aloia of the Austin District — resigned last week.

The board has the power to recommend dismissal of charges, suspensions without pay for up to 30 days or trial by the five-man Civilian Police Board headed by Franklin Kreml.

Kreml's board has the authority to discharge policemen, with the defendants having the right to appeal to the courts.

Plogger, 2340 N. Lawndale, and Semet, 3389 N. Oriole, were excused from duty without pay pending further action. Heath has the same status.

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**COP CONNECTED  
TO KLAN FAILED  
TO REPORT GUNS**

Chicago Policeman Donald Heath, 30, reported as the head of the Ku Klux Klan in Illinois, apparently violated a police rule that requires officers to register firearms with the department, it was disclosed yesterday.

Capt. Raymond Clark, director of the police internal inspection division, said an investigation has shown that none of the cache of semi-automatic rifles, shotguns, and pistols seized last Thursday by police in a raid on Heath's home was registered with officials. Heath lives at 2055 N. Lawndale av.

*Don Heath*  
*Heath*  
*Heath*  
*Heath*

*NNG*

Chas. Amerson

1-15-65

## Ku Klux Cop Now Dragon for 7 States

The National Knights of the Ku Klux Klan have rewarded suspended Chicago Policeman Donald Heath for his "good work" in organizing a six-member klan group among Chicago police.

James R. Venable, imperial wizard of the klan, said that Heath would become grand dragon for a seven-state mid-western region.

Heath, 30, returned yesterday from national klan headquarters in Tucker, Ga., where announcement of his promotion was made by Venable at a 4-day convention of the group.

Acknowledging the appointment, Heath said he would head klan activity, including secret organization and recruiting, in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Missouri, Iowa, Wisconsin and Minnesota.

Heath and five other policemen were suspended on Dec. 26 when their klan membership was discovered.

Another of the policemen suspended with Heath was also promoted. William Plogger, 43, will become king klegg (vice president) of the midwestern region. Plogger also awaits police board action.

Chgo Sun Times  
3-1-68

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# Klan Cop Planned Daley Murder, Detective Charges

By James Casey

A detective testified Thursday that Donald Heath, a policeman accused of also being a Ku Klux Klan leader, once planned to assassinate Mayor Daley.

Det. James Tobin, who infiltrated the Klan, said Heath told him early in November that he was going to aim a bazooka through the bay window of Daley's home in the Back of the Yards district.

Tobin said Heath told him also of plans to execute Deputy Police Supt. James M. Rochford and former Chicago Police Capt. James Holzman.

The detective testified before a hearing of the Police Board, which is considering whether to fire Heath for Klan activities. The board will make its decision public on April 5.

Heath was suspended when his association with the Klan was revealed in December. Two other accused Klan-policemen are awaiting hearings. Three others resigned.

Tobin, who was initiated into the Klan in September after posing as a Klan sympathizer, said Heath told him he wanted to kill Daley simply because the mayor is a top city official.

Daley said Police Supt. James B. Conlisk Jr. told him several weeks ago of the plot on his life. He declined further comment because the Police Board is still deliberating on Heath's case.

Continuing his testimony, Tobin said Heath disliked Rochford because he felt he

was not tough enough in his handling of the racial disturbances in the summers of 1966 and 1967.

He said he learned from Heath that Rochford would be killed at another disturbance so that, as Heath put it, "we can blame the niggers."

Heath's gripe against Holzman was that he has "Jewish blood," Tobin testified.

Holzman already had become head of the police force in Oregon's Multnomah County (Portland) when Heath relayed his plot, Tobin said.

The police investigator told the hearing that the day before Heath's association with the Klan was made public, Deputy Police Supt. John Mulchrone went to the state's attorney's office to seek criminal charges against the Klan leader for his plot.

But State's Atty. John Stamos said the conversation of Heath with Tobin would be insufficient evidence for a criminal charge. Tobin continued.

During the closing moments

Turn to Page 6

## Klan Cop Plot To Kill Daley Told At Probe

Continued from Page 5

of the hearing, Heath maintained that he could be loyal both to the police department and to the Ku Klux Klan.

But the assistant corporation counsel representing the police department, Jerome Zerla, replied that Heath had been using the force to recruit applicants for the Klan.

He also charged that Heath had been improving his skill with weapons and subverting the aims of the police department while he was on the force.

Earlier in the hearing, Tobin told how he had been initiated into the Klan in a ceremony in the bedroom of Heath's apartment at 2055 N. Lawndale.

Tobin said that before paying the \$15 initiation fee, Heath told him that he soon would meet the top Klan leader in Illinois.

After paying the fee, Tobin said, Heath announced:

"I am the top man. I am the grand dragon. I am the only man who could swear you in."

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3-7-68

Klan Cop Had

Locker Arsenal

A variety of weapons or potential weapons was found in the district station locker of a suspended policeman accused of association with the Ku Klux Klan, a sergeant testified today.

The police board is conducting hearings of charges against Patrolman Ernest Semet, one of three policemen whose dismissal is sought by Supt. James B. Conlisk Jr. Semet was assigned to the Shakespeare avenue district.

Sgt. David Coffey of the internal inspections division said that on Dec. 29 he ordered Semet to open his locker.

Inside were a revolver, a pistol, several hammers, a hunting knife, a hatchet, and a length of chain, Coffey told the board.

Semet said most of the objects had been picked up on "street stops," the police term used to describe investigations which do not result in arrests, Coffey said. The pistol belonged to another policeman who sought Semet's help in getting it repaired, Semet said, according to Coffey.

The sergeant was the first witness in the hearing.

Hearings were held last week on the cases of Patrolman Donald Heath, admitted grand dragon of the Illinois Klan branch, and William Plogger, Illinois grand klazgle.

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J. Baker  
M. K.

# COP'S 100 DAYS IN THE KLAN

## Tear-Gas Attack Plot On A Loop Theater Revealed

By Hugh Hough

The leader of the Ku Klux Klan cell in the Chicago Police Department planned a tear-gas attack on a Loop theater where a Sidney Poitier movie was playing, it was disclosed Saturday.

Niceman James Tobin, the undercover man who exposed Klansmen in blue, told of tear-gas plot and other aspects of the Klan operation in an interview.

Tobin said police Klan leader Donald Heath last October showed me two tear-gas bombs and told me I was to go to a movie and set them off. The reason: Klan leaders in the South were incensed Negro actor Poitier kisses white woman in the movie "Who's Coming to Dinner."

Heath, reached by phone at his Ku Klux Klan headquarters at 1149 W. Addison, was asked for comment on this and other charges made by Tobin in the interview.

Said Heath: "He is a sniveling liar and a yellow coward."

Tobin, 33, the star witness at recent Police Board hearings on dismissal of Heath and two other accused police Klansmen, now is assigned to the Vice Control Division.

In the interview, he told for

**Bombing Called Off**  
Tobin said, Heath called off the tear-gas plot when he was informed that a recent Poitier movie, "Who's Coming to Dinner," was playing on a Loop and that the film

the first time many of the details of his 100 days as a Klan infiltrator.

### Talks Of Informers

Just once, said Tobin, did he consider himself in physical danger of Klan reprisal.

"One night last fall I thought I was exposed," Tobin said. "Heath started talking about informers and what happens to them."

"He said they are taken care of by the 'Black Robes'—a select group of black-robed 'hit' men from the South."

"But it turned out that Heath didn't suspect me, after all. I guess he was just trying to impress me with the Klan's security system."

### Becomes Cyclops

Tobin, who is Irish and a practicing Roman Catholic, went on to become Grand Cyclops, or president of the police Klan unit, or Klavern.

When he was assigned to investigate the Klan last September, said Tobin, all he knew about the national Klan organization was that the objects of its hate included Negroes, Jews and Roman Catholics.

"John Mulchrone, the head of the police task force (and now deputy superintendent), called me and asked me to check into unverified reports of Klan activity in the department," said Tobin.

"I worked with Heath in the Fillmore District, so there was no trouble in getting assigned with him to a two-man car."

### Increases Hate Talk

Tobin said that for the first few days they rode together, Heath limited his hate talks to occasional slurs against Negroes, Jews, Greeks and Italians.

"Then, one day he asked me about my religion, and I told him that I used to be a Catholic, but that my wife and I had switched to the Protestant religion," Tobin recalled. "He liked that."

Heath immediately launched into a tirade against prominent Catholics—John Cardinal Cody, Mayor Daley, and the Rev. James Groppi, the civil rights

activist from Milwaukee, Tobin said.

Tobin agreed with Heath that such individuals were "a threat to the white race."

### Arm-Aching Rites

Within a few days, Heath identified himself as the leader of the Klan in Illinois and swore Tobin into the Klan in a 90-minute ceremony that left Tobin with aching arms because he had to raise them so often for oath-taking.

With the ceremony went a warning from Heath that "in 103 years, the Invisible Empire has never been successfully infiltrated from within."

Tobin, who has been termed a "rat fink" by Imperial Wizard Heath since exposure of

Turn to Page 38

## Undercover Policeman Tells Of 100 Days In The Klan

Continued from Page 2.

the Klan's capers, disclosed that failure of the police Klavern's white robes to arrive on time prevented Chicago's strangest Halloween party of 1967 from coming off in style.

"We were to wear our robes for the first time at the Halloween night meeting," Tobin recalls.

### Given Hate Letters

But even without the robes, the Klan business went on. Tobin says Heath gave him 200 copies of a Klan hate letter at the meeting. They were designed to stir up anti-Negro sentiment and were to be mailed to residents of Cicero, Berwyn and tringe areas of

racial change, Tobin recalls.

But Heath supplied no stamps, and instead of using Police Department expense money to mail the letters, Tobin later burned them.

Tobin reached his zenith in Klan ceremonial matters in December when Heath allowed him to swear in a non-police recruit as a new Klan member.

"The recruit was a real kook—a typical Klansman," Tobin recalls. "He had been with the local Nazi Party until it crumbled. He had wanted to join the Minutemen (a militant right-wing group), but they wouldn't have him."

### Grilled By Heath

"Heath really grilled him before I swore him in. He asked the guy if he would 'do anything for the Klan?' and the recruit said he would."

"Would you kill Groppi?" Heath asked him.

"I'd have to think about that," the recruit answered.

Later, said Tobin, Heath laughed off the kill-Groppi question, saying that the murder of the priest would "just make him a martyr."

### Didn't Tell Wife

In his testimony before the Police Board, Tobin said Heath once advanced a plan for killing Mayor Daley with a bazooka. Heath was serious

about that, Tobin maintains.

Tobin, who has won four departmental commendations and 16 creditable mentions during his 11 years on the force, didn't tell his wife, Janet, about his Klan undercover work until a few days before Heath's home was raided in December.

How did she take the news?

"She understood," said Tobin. "She knows a policeman can catch some strange assignments."

The Tobins, who were high school sweethearts on the West Side, have three sons.

Tobin says he is proud that the Klan was never able to recruit more than six of the Chicago Police Department's more than 10,000 members. (Three of the police Klan recruits quit the force and therefore were not involved in the Police Board trial.)

### Views On Prejudice

Asked about his personal view of prejudice and police work, Tobin replied:

"If you have any prejudice, you leave it on your doorstep when you go to work in the morning. I don't think you can be a good policeman if you are racially prejudiced."

"A policeman has to deal with facts. You aren't a good policeman if you let prejudice color the facts."

cc - I. Small  
J. Bakst  
M. Kass

Chgo. Sun-Time

4-6-68

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### 3 Ku Klux Klan Members Fired From Police Force

Three Chicago policemen were dismissed from the force Friday as members of the Ku Klux Klan.

The three are Donald R. Heath, 30, of the Fillmore District, and William Plogger, 44, and Ernest R. Semet, 32, both of the Shakespeare District.

A five-man police board found them guilty of charges of misconduct including disobedience of police department regulations. All pleaded not guilty.

The three were exposed as

Klan members two months ago, when Policeman James Tobin infiltrated the Klan to gather evidence. All were said to be top officers in the secret society.

Chgo Tribune  
4-6-68

### 3 KLANSMEN ARE FIRED FROM POLICE FORCE

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They are Patrolman Donald Heath, 30, of 2655 N. Lawndale av.; William Plogger, 43, of 2340 N. Lawndale av., and Ernest R. Semet, 32, of 3338 N. Oriole av.

Heath had been assigned to the Fillmore district and Plogger and Semet to the Shakespeare district.

#### Superintendent Explains

Police Supt. James B. Conlisk said that membership in the klan was contrary to the policies of the police department.

Heath, head of the klan in Illinois and a surrounding six-state area, was identified as head of a six-man klan cell in the police department. A raid by police on his home on Dec. 28 uncovered a cache of guns, hand grenades, and 200,000 rounds of ammunition, along with klan flags and literature.

Plogger, who had been on the force since 1954, was identified as vice president of the klan in Illinois.

#### 3 Others Resign

Three other members of the force who were identified as klan members by Conlisk subsequently resigned.

They are Patrolmen Richard Stanton, 33, of 3350 62d pl., and Jon T. Johansson, 26, of 329 N. Latrobe av., both assigned to the Fillmore district, and Dennis Aloia, 25, of 4340 Concord av., Austin district.



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Wrongdoing on Rise

# Chicago Police Image Still Tarnished

FEB 21 1959

By D. J. R. Bruckner  
Los Angeles Times

CHICAGO—“Like Caesar's wife, we should be above suspicion,” says Chicago Police Supt. James B. Conlisk Jr.

“A lot of bad publicity against the Department makes us realize that we must tread the straight and narrow. We are truly public servants, and we must be responsible not only in public, but in private. We must not only give the best of service, but, the appearance of the best.”

Conlisk's remarks, characteristic of the frank way he discusses problems inside and outside his 12,000-man police force, came in a recent press conference at which he was discussing the growing number of Chicago policemen who are under investigation, suspension or even indictment, and the public's uneasiness about the quality of the police.

Revelations of police wrongdoing began to increase last summer before former Supt. O. W. Wilson, who had reformed the Department after a major scandal in 1960, retired. Conlisk took over in August.

But, since last November,



Associated Press

James B. Conlisk

... noble experiment

the charges have increased in number and in seriousness. Early in February, two uniformed policemen and two detectives were transferred to desk work while investigators of the Internal Inspections Division and the Cook County State's Attorney began probing charges that the four men took a \$450 bribe from a northside tavern owner. The

Division is responsible for policing the police.

The four were called to the tavern when a fight started between the owner and a patron. That altercation was settled, but the four policemen then questioned patrons and found one of them to be a minor—which could have cost the tavern owner his license.

The owner said one of the detectives offered to forget the charge for \$450. He had only \$280, however, so he borrowed the other \$170 from two patrons at the bar and they, in turn, cooperated with the Inspections Division in naming the offending four officers.

Last November, the police raided a flop bar run by August Circella, confiscating weapons, narcotics and a lot of jewelry.

A police sergeant directing the raid said Circella offered him \$1000 to forget the whole thing and not take him in, but the offer failed and Circella was hauled off to the vice squad headquarters. At the headquarters, a lieutenant who was questioning him said Circella offered \$1200 to be al-

lowed to go free. When the officer asked to see the money, Circella handed him a wad which turned out to be only \$540, so Circella wrote him an IOU for the other \$660.

Not everyone is amused by such antics, least of all the Inspections Division men assigned to keeping an eye on their fellow police. “You cannot have bribery without someone offering or giving the bribe,” says one detective. “We have to educate not only our own men, but the people about the dangers of this situation.”

In December Conlisk turned the entire top command of the Department upside down, shifting 13 top officers, combining old sections into new ones and creating a new internal control division, the present Inspections Division, which represents a merger of the old internal inspections and intelligence functions.

At the head of this unit he placed Dep. Supt. John Mulchrone, who at 38 is the youngest officer ever to hold the No. 3 spot in the department. Mulchrone's unit has more than 450 men, about 270 of whom were assigned to internal departmental discipline when the new unit was formed in December.

The biggest recent breaks in the Department's effort to clean itself out have come since Mulchrone took command of the Division. Conlisk has commented, “I think our work is coming along all right.”

Some cases have an amusing side, such as a pair of dismissals announced by Wilson shortly before he retired. The dismissed officers, Wilson said at the time, had taken a \$1000 bribe from a man, agreeing not to arrest him for carrying a concealed weapon. But they also confiscated the weapon and sold it back to him for \$40.

But Mulchrone's men have produced a case of severe jitters among policemen with several new drives. Shortly after Christmas, the Inspections Division made public the



names of six uniformed policemen who were members of the Ku Klux Klan, including one officer who was the State's grand dragon and who had been recruiting others in the Department.

To the outside world this case appeared scandalous, but inside the Department the point was made that, except for passing out membership applications, none of the Klan members had conducted his Klan activities inside the Department. It was all done at home or outside regular police hours. It is fairly common now for policemen on the beats to tell you they think they are watched closely outside their precinct stations, and even when they are out of uniform.

More worrisome to professional criminals is the continuing investigation of a "bolita" (numbers) ring broken by the Inspections Division Jan. 15. The ring, which had netted about \$1 million a year, was the toy of Mafia bigwig Fiorvante (Fifi) Buccieri. When the police raided the ring, they found all its records, including a directory of policemen who have been paid off, identified by nickname or full name and sometimes by auto license numbers. This investigation, the police say, is continuing and will result in further indictments.

Mulchrone, the guardian of the guardians, says "most of the officers in this Department do not resent us (the Inspections Division). The vast majority of these guys are honest and decent, and some of them are noble. But you do not make a man honest just by swearing him in or putting him in a uniform. The policemen understand the need for watchfulness and they help us out."

# Ex-Chicago Cop Tied To Klan Probed In Plot On Justices

By Art Feliacque

Former Chicago policeman Donald Heath is one of five persons under investigation in connection with an alleged plot to assassinate the nine justices of the U.S. Supreme Court, it was learned Thursday.

Heath, 31, was fired as a policeman last April after disclosure that he was the leader of a Ku Klux Klan cell in the department.

The alleged assassination plot has been under investigation by a federal grand jury in Cleveland.

## Believed Back

A Justice Department source in Washington confirmed that Heath is one of the five persons affected.

Heath reportedly has returned to Chicago. After being fired from the force, he spent some time in Stone Mountain, Ga., headquarters of the National Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, and later moved to Akron, Ohio.

He was arrested and fined in Akron last August after police found these items in his auto: a .22-caliber pistol, 75 rounds of ammunition, a leaded policeman's nightstick, five gallons of gasoline, rags, string, pipe casings and a small Klan sign suitable for mounting atop an auto by suction cups.

## Reported Banished

After Heath was discharged as a policeman, the Klan elevated him from the post of

Illinois leader to Midwest imperial dragon.

However, a woman aide of James R. Venable, an Atlanta lawyer and imperial wizard of the National Knights of the KKK, said Thursday that Heath was banished from the Klan in September for "misconduct."

She declined to elaborate except to observe that Venable has said in the past that he would "tolerate no hoodlums" in the Klan.

Venable's aide also said she heard that Heath was in Cleveland last week to appear before a federal grand jury.

Asked where she got that information, she said, "Via shortwave radio."

She was asked if the Klan

now is communicating by shortwave radio. She replied, "No, not necessarily. I just happen to own one."

## More Than Loose Talk

The Justice Department source said the alleged assassination plot amounted to "much more than just loose talk over a coffee table."

The assassination plan was well worked out and could have been effective, the source said.

It was learned that the Federal Bureau of Investigation originally planned to arrest the five suspects but later decided to keep them under surveillance and to present information on them to the grand jury.

The grand jury reportedly

was told that the plot originally was to be carried out Nov. 18 but was dropped for unknown reasons. The plan reportedly called for one member of the group to run into the Supreme Court Building in Washington and hurl explosives among the justices during a court session.

## Dislike For Rulings

Members of the group were said to dislike some of the court's more liberal rulings.

Heath's link with the Klan was exposed last Dec. 28 when police raided his home and found thousands of rounds of small arms ammunition, a six-foot cross of the type the Klan employs as a fiery symbol of terrorism and vast quantities of hate literature.

Patrolman James Tobin, a



DONALD HEATH

police undercover man who helped expose the Klan cell, said Heath once told him of a plan to fire tear gas in a Loop theater where a Sidney Poitier movie was playing.

That alleged plan was not carried out. Tobin said Heath hatched the plan because he was infuriated that Poitier, a Negro, kisses a white woman in the movie, "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner."